

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W

----- 073300

R 042035Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4428

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, DR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE GIVEN 30-DAY LEAVE

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS GRANTED THIRTY DAYS LEAVE TO SECRETARY OF STATE OF AGRICULTURE CARLOS AQUINO GONZALEZ. "HEALTH" WAS GIVEN AS OFFICIAL REASON. MANUEL VINAS CACERES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (IAD), WAS NAMED TO FILL AQUINO'S POSITION IN THE INTERIM.

2. AQUINO HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT JULY 24. (ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOMINGO MARTE ALSO RESIGNED AT THAT TIME.) TRUE REASON FOR RESIGNATION WAS AQUINO'S BELIEF THAT HE HAD LOST PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT. (LISTIN DIARIO SUGGESTED EDITORIALY, AS AN ALTERNATE EXPLANATION, THAT HE HAD BECOME A VICTIM OF "PALACE INTRIGUES.") IT IS KNOWN THAT HE FELT FRUSTRATED IN HIS EFFORTS TO CONVINCE BALAGUER OF SERIOUSNESS OF EFFECTS OF DROUGHT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND OF NEED FOR MORE DRASTIC GOVT ACTION TO HELP AFFECTED AREAS AND PEOPLE. IMMEDIATE PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS WHICH APPEARED TO TRIGGER RESIGNATION WERE PRESIDENT'S SHIFT OF HIGH LEVEL PERSONNEL OF SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING MARTE, AND TRANSFER OF 72 TRACTORS FROM SEA TO IAD, ALL WITHOUT CONSULTING SECRETARY AQUINO.

3. PRESIDENT'S ACTION PRE-EMPTED NOT ONLY AQUINO'S RESIGNATION BUT THOSE OF SEVERAL OF AQUINO'S CLOSE ADVISORS AND ASSISTANTS. IT ALSO PRE-EMPTED OR TEMPORARILY DELAYED

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RELEASE OF DOCUMENTED DEFENSE OF AQUINO'S VIEWS AND INDIRECTLY

A CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND HIS  
EVALUATION OF DROUGHT CONSEQUENCES AND RELIEF MEASURES.  
PRESS AND RADIO HAVE PRAISED AQUINO FOR HIS DEDICATION TO  
AGRICULTURE, AND SEVERAL COMMENTATORS AND EDITORIALISTS HAVE  
IMPLIED CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS FAILURE TO LISTEN  
TO THE SECRETARY.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, PERSONAL LEAVE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE GIVEN 30-DAY LEAVE  
**TAGS:** EAGR, DR, (AQUINO GONZALEZ, CARLOS E)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006